

# Nursing home is sued in death

By Lindsay Kishter | Tribune staff reporter  
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The daughter of an 82-year-old woman who died in a Lemont nursing home in May filed a lawsuit Wednesday alleging that the facility did not provide adequate supervision to prevent a fall that she claims led to her mother's death.

Teresa Thorp alleged in the lawsuit that Lemont Nursing and Rehabilitation did not properly assess the risk of a fall or devise a plan for supervising Minnie Burger, who fell May 11 and died three days later. Burger had previously suffered injuries from a fall in the facility in September, the suit said.

Stephanie Peterson, risk manager for Care Centers, which manages the nursing facility, said she had not seen the lawsuit and could not comment on it.

Other allegations in the suit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, include neglect, failure to identify and treat an infection and failure to protect Burger from physical abuse inflicted by another patient.

"It is crucial that nursing homes that accept elderly residents who are at risk for falls come up with a plan to prevent falls," said Thorp's attorney, Steven Levin. He said that the facility breached the trust Thorp placed in its ability to protect her mother and that she is seeking in excess of \$50,000 in damages.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is investigating the case because Thorp filed a complaint, Levin said.

Kimberly Parker, spokeswoman for the department, confirmed there was a death investigation, but she could not name the resident.

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